

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7770

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PINS, CB, FR, TH

SUBJECT: CAMBODIANS RETURNING TO THEIR COUNTRY AND UNHCR ROLE

REF: 1) GENEVA 0367 2) GENEVA 0499 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING RETURN OF UNHCR REP FROM PARIS AND MEETINGS WITH CAMBODIAN (KAMPUCHEA) OFFICIALS THERE, HICOM'S OFFICE PREPARED AND DELIVERED TO MISSION STATEMENT ON "POSITION ON QUESTION OF VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIANS", WHICH PARAPHRASED AS FOLLOWS:

A. KAMPUCHEAN AUTHORITIES ACCEPT PRINCIPLE OF RETURN TO HOMELAND OF CAMBODIANS WHO ARE PRESENT HAPPEN TO BE ABROAD. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE, 250 CAMBODIANS HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED IN GROUPS OF FIFTY VIA PARIS AND PEKING TO PHNOM PENH THROUGH GRUNK MISSION IN PARIS.

B. PROCEDURE FOLLOWED FOR RETURN REQUIRES CAMBODIANS, WHEREVER THEY ARE, TO WRITE, PREFERABLY IN CAMBODIAN

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LANGUAGE TO: MISSION DU GRUNK, 2 PLACE DE BARCELONE,

PARIS, 16EME. REQUESTS FOR REPATRIATION WILL BE STUDIED ON CASE BY CASE BASIS. CANDIDATES MAY COME TO PARIS FOR INTERVIEW BY MISSION. THIS MAY FACILITATE THEIR REPATRIATION BUT NOT GUARANTEE IT.

C. THOSE ACCEPTED FOR REPATRIATION ARE EXPECTED, IN CONTEXT OF INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE, NOT TO SEEK, REQUEST OR ACCEPT ANY OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE TOWARDS THEIR TRAVEL FROM PARIS TO PHNOM PENH. SHOULD THERE BE ANY PROBLEM THIS REGARD, THEY SHOULD REFER MATTER TO MISSION. (FOR PURPOSES OF AIR TRAVEL, MISSION HAS MADE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR REDUCTION OF NORMAL FARE.)

D. LIKEWISE, CANDIDATES COMING TO PARIS FOR INTERVIEW ARE EXPECTED NOT TO SEEK, REQUEST OR ACCEPT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE FOR TRAVEL TO PARIS.

E. IT APPEARS THUS THAT GOVERNMENT OF KAMPUCHEA DOES NOT WISH, IN CONTEXT OF ITS PRINCIPLES OF INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE, ANY FOREIGN ORGANIZATION, PRIVATE OR PUBLIC, NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL, TO INTERVENE, ON ITS OWN, AT ANY STAGE, IN ANY MANNER, IN REPATRIATION PROCESS.

F. WITHOUT COMMENTING ON POSITION OR PROCEDURES ADOPTED INDEPENDENTLY BY AUTHORITIES OF KAMPUCHEA FOR PURPOSES OF VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, HICOM BELIEVES THAT ANY ROLE BY UNHCR WOULD APPEAR TO BE NEITHER IN INTEREST OF INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED AS REGARDS THEIR RETURN HOME NOR, INDEED, WOULD IT SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE FOR REPATRIATION PROCESS.

2. IN DELIVERING FOREGOING TEXT, UNHCR REP (WHO IN SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION), UNDERSCORING CURRENT HIGH SENSITIVITY OF CAMBODIANS, URGED THAT ANY DESIRING REPATRIATION BE SURE TO WRITE IN CAMBODIAN LANGUAGE. OTHERWISE, HE FELT MISSION WOULD CERTAINLY REJECT APPLICATIONS OUT OF HAND. HE TOLD MISOFF THAT IN UNHCR'S VIEW ONLY PRACTICAL WAY AT PRESENT FOR THOSE AT HALFWAY HOUSE TO REPATRIATED WAS THROUGH APPLICATION TO GRUNK MISSION PARIS. HE SAID THAT CAMBODIANS HAD TOLD THEM THAT MISSION HAD APPROVED RETURN OF SOME MILITARY OFFICERS WHO HAD SERVED IN LON NOL REGIME AND "EVEN SOME DIPLOMATS".DALE

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